

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 6452

STADIS////////////////////////////////

FOR S/NM FALCO FROM SHOESMITH

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, HK, US
SUBJECT: DEA HONG KONG

1. IF IT AT ALL POSSIBLE, I WOULD LIKE OUR NARCOTICS
COORDINATOR, BURTON LEVIN, TO ATTEND THE FORTHCOMING
QUADRIPARTITE CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 27-29 AT VAN-
COUVER. ONE OF THE PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS IS THE NARCOTICS
SITUATION IN HONG KONG AND BURT WOULD BENEFIT FROM AND
CONTRIBUTE TO THE DISCUSSION ON THAT SUBJECT.

2. ANOTHER IMPORTANT REASON FOR MY WANTING BURT AT THE
CONFERENCE RELATES TO THE CONTINUING JURISDICTIONAL DISPUTE
ON NARCOTICS MATTERS BETWEEN THE HKG'S NARCOTICS BUREAU AND
ITS CUSTOMS AND EXCISE SERVICE. DEA IS CAUGHT IN THE
MIDDLE OF THIS DISPUTE, AND ITS EFFORTS HERE HAVE BEEN
COMPLICATED BY THE DIFFICULT TASK OF ATTEMPTING TO WORK
WITH BOTH OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS WITHOUT BEING
EXPLOITED OR CIRCUMSCRIBED BY EITHERFOR BUREAU-
CRATIC GAIN. BOTH OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE
REPRESENTED BY THEIR CHIEFS AT THE CONFERENCE WHICH
WILL ALSO BE ATTENDED BY DEA REPS FROM HONG KONG,
THE REGION AND WASHINGTON. THERE IS A GOOD CAHNCE
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OF DEA'S PROBLEMS IN HONG KONG BEING RAISED AT THE
CONFERENCE OR IN CORRIDOR TALKS AND IN THAT EVENT
I WOULD LIKE BURT THERE TO ASSURE THAT THE MATTER
IS HANDLED IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH OUR AND HKG
INTERESTS. COMMISSIONER OF NARCOTICS, PETER LEE,
WHO HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH BURT ON TRYING TO CON-
TAIN THIS PROBLEM AND WHO WILL BE AT THE CONFERENCE,

FOR THE SAME REASON SHARES BY HOPE THAT BURT CAN
ATTEND. PETER ADDITIONALLY FEELS THAT BURT'S
"POLITICAL PRESENCE" WOULD BE GENERALLY BENEFICIAL
TO THE CONFERENCE'S PROCEEDINGS.

3. OUR BUDGETARY POSITION DOES NOT PERMIT POST
FINANCING OF THE TRIP, AND I VERY MUCH DOUBT THAT EA
COULD COME UP WITH THE NECESSARY FUNDS. I'M AFRAID
BURT'S PRESENCE AT THE CONFERENCE IS CONTINGENT UPON
FINANCING BY S/NM. WHILE I HOPE THAT YOU CAN ASSUME
THIS BURDEN, I REALIZE THAT CIRCUMSTANCES MAY
PREVENT YOU FROM DOING SO IN WHICH CASE WE WILL
CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS HERE TO AMELIORATE THE
EXISTING PROBLEM. IF FINANCING IS AVAILABLE, IT
WOULD PROBABLY BE USEFUL FOR BURT TO ARRIVE IN
WASHINGTON PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE FOR A FEW DAYS
CONSULTATION WITH YOU AND MEMBERS OF YOUR
STAFF ON THE NARCOTICS SITUATION IN HONG KONG AND
THE REGION.
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